

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 03311 252031Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 AF-10
EA-10 HA-05 MCT-02 /101 W
-----112247 261650Z /43
R 252028Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2994
INFO USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 03311

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, PQ, CU
SUBJECT: CUBAN COMMENTS ON PUERTO RICO

1. MISOFF BLACKEN MET FOR LUNCH WITH MIGUEL ALVAREZ OF CUBAN UN MISSION AUGUST 24 AT LATTER'S INVITATION. ALVAREZ IS CUBAN DELEGATE ON COMMITTEE OF 24. PUERTO RICO WAS MAIN TOPIC OF CONVERSATION, ALTHOUGH ANGOLA, NAMIBIA, AND NICARAGUA WERE ALSO DISCUSSED.
2. ALVAREZ OPENED THE CONVERSATION BY INQUIRING WHETHER THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT AT NOON (PRESUMABLY AT THE SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING) REPRESENTED A HARDENING OF US POLICY TOWARD CUBA. HE EXPLAINED THAT SPOKESMAN HAD SAID THERE WOULD BE NO PROGRESS IN IMPROVING US-CUBA RELATIONS UNTIL CUBA AGREED TO COMPENSATE U.S. FIRMS FOR EXPROPRIATED PROPERTY. MISOFF REPLIED THAT HE WAS UNINFORMED CONCERNING THE STATEMENT OR ITS SIGNIFICANCE.
3. CONCERNING PUERTO RICO, BLACKEN EXPLAINED IN DETAIL U.S. POSITION WHY PUERTO RICO IS NOT A PROPER SUBJECT FOR UN INVOLVEMENT AT THIS TIME. TO PRESS FOR UN INVOLVEMENT SIGNIFIED A LACK OF RESPECT FOR THE WILL OF THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 03311 252031Z

PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE AS EXPRESSED IN PAST ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA. MANY PEOPLE IN THE U.S. BELIEVED THAT CUBA'S INTENTION WAS TO USE THE ISSUE TO EMBARASS THE U.S., THEREFORE, WHATEVER CUBA'S MOTIVATION, A POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECT WAS DAMAGE TO CUBA'S INTEREST IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.

4. ALVAREZ LISTENED CAREFULLY, BUT SAID CUBA'S POSITION AND ITS APPROACH TO THE ISSUE IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 WOULD REMAIN AS IT WAS LAST YEAR. CUBA CONSIDERS PUERTO RICO TO BE A COLONIAL TERRITORY. THE REAL DESIRES OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE FOR INDEPENDENCE HAVE NOT COME THROUGH CLEARLY BECAUSE OF MANIPULATION BY LEADERS WITH

VESTED INTERESTS IN THE PRESENT STATUS. FOR CUBA, THE ISSUE REMAINS ONE OF PRINCIPLE.

5. ALVAREZ REFERRED TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S REPRESENTATION ON PUERTO RICO TO AMBASSADOR ROA OVER A MONTH AGO, IMMEDIATELY BEFORE ROA'S DEPARTURE FOR CONSULTATION AND VACATION AND SAID THAT THE AMBASSADOR WOULD RETURN TO NEW YORK ON AUGUST 26.

6. CONCERNING COMMITTEE VOTING, ALVAREZ SAID THAT THIS YEAR A DEFERRAL MOTION WOULD LOSE. BLACKEN SAID OUR COUNTING ADDED UP TO THE OPPOSITE RESULT; HOWEVER, HE DID NOT ELABORATE ON THE LINEUP.

7. ALVAREZ COMPLIMENTED AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND MCHENRY FOR THEIR SUCCESS ON NAMIBIA. CUBA ALSO WELCOMED THE SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT IN US RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA, HE SAID.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 03311 252031Z

8. TURNING TO NICARAGUA, ALVAREZ COMMENTED THAT SOMOZA'S SITUATION WAS DETERIORATING RAPIDLY. HE CITED AS AN EXAMPLE OF PUBLIC ATTITUDES THAT THE TERRORISTS WHO HAD ATTACKED THE LEGISLATIVE PALACE AND TAKEN HOSTAGES WERE CHEERED BY CROWDS ALONG THE STREETS AS THEY WENT TO THE AIRPORT. MISOFF COMMENTED THAT THE TERRORISTS' ACTIONS HAD PROBABLY SET BACK PROSPECTS FOR AN OPENING OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM IN NICARAGUA. ALVAREZ EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IF THE U.S. WITHDREW SUPPORT FROM SOMOZA, CHANGE WOULD COME RAPIDLY.

9. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH DISAGREEMENT ON POLICY ISSUES PREVAILED DURING THIS DISCUSSION, IT REMAINED CORDIAL. ALVAREZ APPEARS TO ENJOY SUCH DISCUSSIONS AND, WHILE HAVING DIFFERENT POSITIONS, TO UNDERSTAND THE U.S. PERSPECTIVE. YOUNG

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN03311
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780350-0363
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780821/aaaaarep.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b13d755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1614072
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUBAN COMMENTS ON PUERTO RICO
TAGS: PORG, PQ, CU, US, UNGA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b13d755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014